



STOPDV Spring 2023 Newsletter



WHAT IS STOPDV?

STOPDV is the first domestic violence specialty court in Arkansas that provides not only court advocacy, safety planning, and support to domestic violence survivors, but also free legal services such as representation for eligible petitioners in active order of protection hearings in Faulkner County. Based in Conway, Arkansas, STOPDV was initially funded on October 1st, 2019. We eagerly serve clients in person or via telephone, email or Zoom from the Faulkner County Justice Building, where we primarily operate as a fully functioning court project.

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

1 in 3



American teenagers will have experienced at least one form of abuse from a partner by the time they reach adulthood.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. We are dedicated to serving victims of domestic violence at any age and bringing awareness to what we can all do to create a safe environment for children and teenagers.

OUR STORY

STOPDV was initially founded over twenty years ago by Judge H.G. Foster. While working as a deputy prosecuting attorney, Judge Foster realized that there was a need in the community to help victims who “couldn’t hit back”. Thus, STOPDV was born, with our name being credited to Judge Reynolds.

Our board consists of a senator, county administrator, city council member, Justice of the Peace, legal counsel for the state of Arkansas, and other community members who are committed to helping survivors of domestic violence. Over the last three years, we have been able to assist thousands of clients in Faulkner County, and we look forward to serving our community in the years to come.

What is domestic violence?

Domestic violence (DV) is a pattern of physical, psychological, or sexual abuse, including threats, intimidation, isolation, and/or economic coercion. Domestic violence is used by one person to exert power and control over another in the context of a dating, family, or household relationship.



**Follow us on Instagram
@stopdvproject to see weekly updates!**

What's Happening?

THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS



- Maree Coats has been a resident of Faulkner County since 1994. She attended the University of Arkansas and transferred to finish her Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education at UCA when she married her husband Kirby. She has been working in real estate and property development on both the management and construction side since 2006. She is also serving Faulkner County as Justice of the Peace for District 2. In this role, she serves on the Budget and Finance Committee as well as the Courts and Public Safety Committee. She is driven to help the domestic violence advocacy platform in Faulkner County after the issue impacted within her close friendship circle this past year.



- Cortney Kennedy has been a licensed attorney in Arkansas since 2014. She currently serves as Associate Legal Counsel, Criminal Division, in the Office of Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders. Prior to that, she was a deputy prosecuting attorney in Faulkner County for the nearly 8 years, prosecuting domestic cases and general crimes. Cortney is a proud member and past president of Conway Noon Rotary, a graduate of Conway Area Leadership Program (2019) and Jeff Farris Leadership Program (2018). She volunteers time with Faulkner County's Teen Court Program as well as the Conway Police Department's mentorship program for new hire families. Helping survivors of domestic violence is a cause close to Cortney's heart. It is her goal to end the cycle of domestic violence by holding offenders accountable and by providing survivors with the resources they need to remove themselves from the situation.



- Senator Missy Thomas Irvin represents Senate District 24, which includes Searcy, Stone and Van Buren Counties and parts of Cleburne, Faulkner and Newton Counties. Senator Irvin was first elected to the Senate in 2010, as the first Republican to hold the seat since Reconstruction in 1874. She was also the first woman and the first resident of Stone County to hold the seat. At the time, she was the youngest woman ever elected to the Arkansas Senate, at the age of 39. She has served on countless committees for the state of Arkansas, including positions as chair and co-chair for the majority of these committees and councils. Senator Irvin and her husband reside in Mountain View and are members of First United Methodist Church of Mountain View.



SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Appreciation Corner



SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HEATHER MCKINNEY, STOPDV FOUNDING MEMBER



Our STOPDV team has had the honor of working with Heather McKinney, our former protection order attorney for over three years. She has been with us since the beginning of our court project, and over the course of the last few years, she has tremendously helped us pave the way for our legal advocacy. Heather has served hundreds of clients as their order of protection attorney and has continued to do it all with determination and a smile on her face.

We could not be more grateful for not only her professional contributions towards our mission, but for her servant's heart and personal dedication to the members on our team. We are excited to see what the future has in store for her!

MELISSA KELLY, ORDER OF PROTECTION INTERN



"I think STOPDV has a great mission and a different kind of advocacy than what we usually see for this population. I'm grateful to have the chance to be a part of it and work with the awesome team that keeps things running!" - Melissa Kelly

As a Bachelors in Social Work student through Liberty University, Melissa Kelly has been able to facilitate our order of protection services through our outreach office, help us with grant research, learn the logistics of our court project, and assist our crisis intervention specialist with advocacy services. She has been such a blessing to our staff in such a short amount of time, and we are so grateful to have her as our Spring 2023 Order of Protection Support Intern.

LORIE MASON, PROTECTION ORDER ATTORNEY



Meet the newest addition to our STOPDV team!

Lorie Mason is our new protection order attorney, and she brings with her years of knowledge and experience in the legal field. Just a few notable milestones throughout her career include working in the 20th Judicial District circuit court with juveniles, becoming a Deputy Public Defender for Faulkner County, and the city attorney for the town of Menifee. Lorie Mason has owned her own law practice, Mason Law Firm & Associates, for nearly ten years now, and is excited to bring her expertise to benefit survivors of domestic violence alongside our STOPDV team. We are so grateful for the opportunity to continue our services and bring her onto our team!



Useful Info & Resources



SUMMER INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE



If you're looking for an opportunity to get involved with your community this summer, we have got **THREE** different areas that you can take part of!

We've got openings for a compliance court intern, order of protection support intern, and project support intern. If you'd like to apply, we've got our applications open through Handshake & HireHendrix. If you would like to be a regular volunteer, please fill out our application at wecanstopdv.org/get-involved.

LOCAL PHONE RESOURCES

AR State Police: (501) 618-8000
AR Coalition Against Sexual Assault: (800) 656-4673
AR Coalition Against Domestic Violence: (501) 907-5612
AR Commission on Child Abuse, Rape, & Domestic Violence: (501) 661-7975
The Rise House Crisis Hotline: (866) 358-2265
Women & Children First: (800) 332-4443
The Safe Place (Morrilton): (888)-554-2501

SIGNS OF EMOTIONAL ABUSE



NATIONAL PHONE RESOURCES

National Dating Abuse Helpline:
(866) 331-9474
National Domestic Violence Hotline:
(800) 799-7233
(Text 'LOVEIS' to '22522')
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence:
(800) 537-2238
National Network to End Domestic Violence:
(202) 543-5566
Love Is Respect:
1-866-331-9474, 800.787.3224 (TTY)
The Trevor Project:
1-866-488-7386



Contact Us & More



@stopdvproject



@StopDV



www.wecanstopdv.org

The Rise House of Conway 24-Hour Hotline: (866)358-2265

Staff Contact Info

- Terri Baker, Court Liaison, (501)764-6401, tbakerstopdv@gmail.com
- Lorie Mason, Protection Order Attorney, (501)764-6452, protectionorderattorney@gmail.com
- Amy Johnson, Crisis Intervention Specialist, (501)764-6396, ajohnsonstopdv@gmail.com
- Cristal Ramirez, Compliance Court Advocate, (501)764-6195, cramirezstopdv@gmail.com
- Victoria Simmons, Court/Child Victim Advocate, (501)764-6178, vsimmonsstopdv@gmail.com

How Can You Support STOPDV?

Donate to STOPDV by texting 'STOPDV19' to 44-321,
OR

Square:

<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/ML6G3YW9FZBB7/checkout/BWPIVRF5PRTHSEDN4TXSBDW2>

PayPal:

<https://www.paypal.com/donate?token=pq08kbZamMzxvO36M03Xqj0f-YIEmpaaYfvGh0y0v14Qfeo750bC-Yjmdierrs1zB9HHkfWrZSS7Np->



Arkansas Victim Rights

Arkansas legate law (Act 873 and Arkansas Victim Rights Law/Act 1262) provides these protections to victims:

- As a victim of a crime, you are entitled to specific information about the criminal case and the legal process involving the criminal case.
- During criminal proceedings, you have the right to be present and be provided with a separate waiting area away from your abuser.
- You have the right to make an impact statement in person or in writing, detailing how the crime against you has affected your life.
- Once the criminal proceeding is finished, you have the right to have a post-conviction no contact order.
- If your abuser is found guilty and the judge's sentence includes incarceration, you have the right to be informed thirty days prior to the release, parole, furlough, pardon, plea, bail or at the time of escape through notification programs such as VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday)

**Thank you to all of our donors,
sponsors, funders, volunteers,
board, staff members, and
community partners.**

**None of this would be possible
without you!**